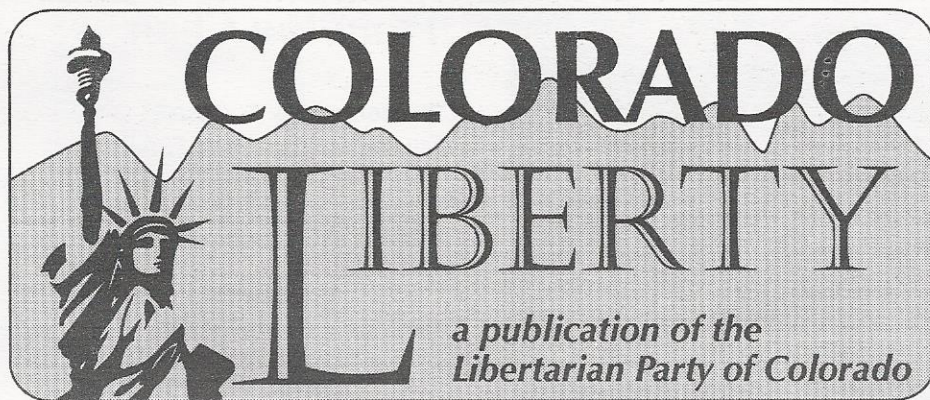


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Volume XVIII, Number 9
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November/December, 1997

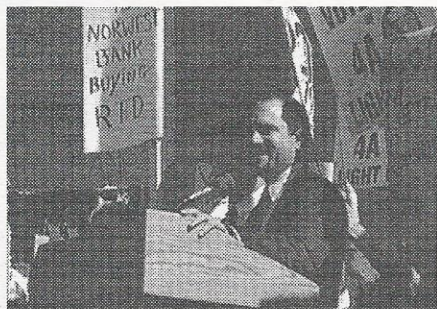
Libertarians Help Kill \$16 Billion, 67% RTD Tax Hike

By Larry Hoffenberg, Public Information Director, Libertarian Party of Colorado

It was *the* issue of the 1997 elections in the Denver-metro area.

Both Denver dailies accorded presidential treatment to the election results—72 point headlines and huge color photos of the celebration party on the front page. In the *Rocky Mountain News*, it was “RTD tax derailed.” *The Denver Post* glumly admitted “Guide the Ride derailed.” (The blond guy on the *Denver Post* cover, with the three-week shadow next to CCC organizer and RTD director Jon Caldara, is LPC Campaigns Director Doug Anderson. Former state chair David Aitken and LPC Legislative Director Judd Ptak are in the background.)

At the celebration party, the LPC presented Caldara, a Republican, with the annual “Friend of Freedom” award.



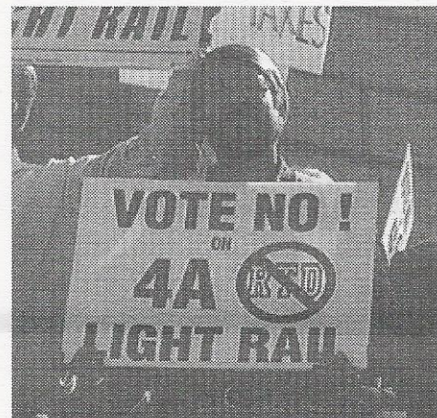
John Caldara, “Friend of Freedom” and leader of Concerned Commuters of Colorado, protests Guide the Ride on the steps of the state capitol.

Polling data released just ten days before the election showed GTR ahead by a 51 percent to 41 percent margin (+/- 5 percent). Backers were confident of their chances. They even proclaimed that light rail was blizzard-proof. Sure, the trains ran, but with far fewer than even their every day low rate. Talk about a snow job!

Well, the voters spoke loudly and clearly. GTR not only lost, it was soundly rejected by a 58 percent to 42 percent margin. It was a clear vote of no confidence in the GTR plan, the 67 percent tax increase, and RTD itself. Who would trust these people with *three* times the budget of DIA?? Another prime example of how “government doesn’t work,” as Harry Browne drummed into our heads last year.

A couple of weeks before the election, Republican mayor of Lakewood Linda Morton authored a “why you should vote for this thing” column in the *Denver Post*. She tried to demonize the opposition to GTR by crediting the LP, not just once, but twice in consecutive paragraphs, as one of the leading critics. Thanks for the publicity, Linda! It’s easy to see how a pro-tax, pro big government, pro urban-renewal Republican would want to criticize the Party of Principle. Sure looks like that strategy backfired.

In its post election lead editorial, the *Rocky Mountain News*, which strongly opposed GTR during the campaign, stated the case very well.



Richard Combs expresses the Libertarian Party’s winning opinion on the greedy politicians’ \$16 billion boondoggle: Guide the Ride.

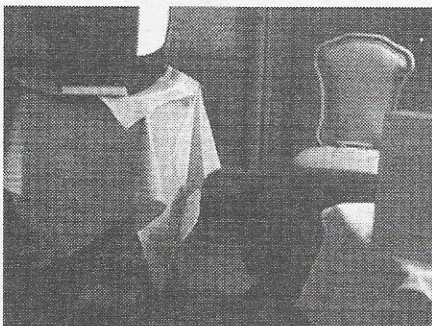
“Virtually the entire civic establishment had supported the proposal; the pro-light-rail campaign outspent its opposition by at least 20 to 1; and, in the months running up to the election, voters had signalled to pollsters over and over just how concerned they were about growth, congestion, and pollution. Yet given the chance to approve a project that would help contain all three problems, a majority of voters flatly turned it down.” A losing trifecta ticket.

Sticking to its guns, the *Post* blamed the defeat on the minute details of the plan. They are now touting “Light Rail Lite.” Fred Brown called the electorate “selfish.” Then he blamed it on the good economy. Chuck Green blamed it on talk radio.

Just what part of “No,” no, make that “*Hell No*,” don’t they understand?



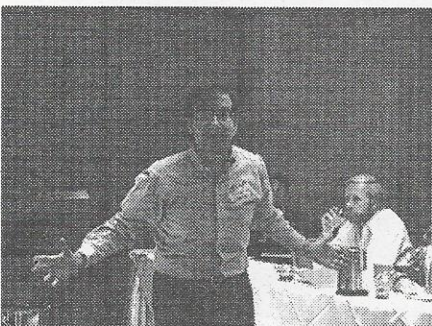
Barbara Goushaw campaigns for liberty.



Ron Crickenberger bows to the media god.



"Professor" Steve Dasbach assigns Chapter 3.



Michael Cloud opens his mouth for once.



Michele Bethke on "Becoming a Libertarian."

From the Chair

Welcome New Activists!!!

What a month! We've been very active with the recent election and were very excited to meet the new activists at the terrific Success '97 Weekend.

We tackled two election issues: the huge RTD tax increase and the Lakewood "Urban Renewal" land grab. A very big thanks to all you Libertarians who were active fighting against these monstrosities. We were major players in the successful fight against the RTD tax, thanks to our role in the "Concerned Commuters of Colorado." David Bryant did the Treasurer's job (which includes filing lots of nasty forms with the Secretary of State) and Larry Hoffenberg peppered the media with excellent press releases.

Thanks to Doug Anderson and Deron Dilger for facilitating the communications for the group. Thanks to the many others who came out on very short notice to all the protest rallies. I hope you saw some of your pictures on the front pages of both Denver papers as we celebrated at the victory party!

Thanks to Deb Bishop, Doug Anderson, and Bette Rose Smith for their valiant efforts fighting the nasty "Urban Renewal" in Lakewood, which unfortunately passed.

Success '97 had a number of highlights, including the many interesting sessions on the practical aspects of how to be a more effective political party, running campaigns, building the prerequisite infrastructure (the database, the newsletter, the media), fundraising, public speaking, growing the membership and "The Road To Victory!"

The most exciting part of the weekend was meeting new activists from all over our state! I am looking forward to new and growing affiliates in Carbondale, Gunnison, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins and Glenwood Springs.

It was fun to meet freedom lovers from Utah, Wyoming, Tennessee, Illinois, New Hampshire, and especially New Mexico, since they have challenged us to a membership duel—who can increase membership the most during the next year. Suggestions on the appropriate wager are

welcome, since of course we will win!

I had some fun hosting a radio show just before the elections, thanks to an invitation from Marty Nalitz. I introduced some basic Libertarian Party concepts and then interviewed guests on the RTD tax and Urban Renewal.

Dan Cochran started a great newspaper in Loveland for the exchange of information affecting economic and personal freedoms. *The Guardian* is based on this observation: If you turn your back on bad government, it only gets worse and bigger.

At the victory party for the defeat of "Guide the Ride," we presented the Libertarian Party "Friend of Liberty" award to Jon Caldara, who organized the successful effort to defeat the gigantic RTD tax boondoggle. Thanks to Larry Hoffenberg for presenting the award above the crowd noise and to Doug Anderson for selecting the award.

Look for an intriguing surprise next month which I hope you'll enjoy a great deal.

Thanks for all the work you are doing for the cause of liberty!

In Liberty,
Sandra Johnson
LP of Colorado State Chair



New Mexico Libertarian challenges Colorado to a membership duel.

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John Pfuetze

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Calendar

December, 1997

- 12/2 - Tue - Larimer County Libertarians 1st Tuesday Breakfast Club - 7:00am - Tony's, 224 S. College, Pat Hartman (970) 224-3116
- 12/2 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 12/3 - Wed - Board of Directors - 1st Wednesday - 7:00pm - LP Office, 720 E 18th Ave #309, Denver, Co 80203, 303-837-9393, all members welcome, public comment 6:45 and 9:00.
- 12/4 - Thu. - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm - Lakewood Library, 10200 W. 20th. Ave., Lakewood, call Tom Goonan, (303) 989-3774
- 12/6 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeeps, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 12/9 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 12/9 - Tue - Denver Activists Meeting - 2nd Tuesday - 7:00pm - home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4, Denver, Co 80218, 303-831-4334.
- 12/10 - Wed - Boulder LP Board Meeting - 2nd Wednesday - 6:30pm - Trillian's, 30th and Arapahoe, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 12/13 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeeps, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 12/15 - Mon - Larimer County Libertarians - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.
- 12/16 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 12/20 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeeps, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.

- 12/23 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 12/27 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeeps, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.

April, 1998

- 4/24-26 - Fri/Sat - LPCO State Convention - Sheraton Denver West Hotel, 360 Union Blvd

July, 1998

- 7/2-5 - National Convention - Washington, DC. (202) 333-0008

Potluck Suppers Come to Denver!

The Denver Libertarian Party recently voted to change its meeting date and format.

Starting in January a potluck supper will be held on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7pm at David Aitken's home. Members felt more folks would enjoy coming to a social-centered meeting.

Members of other metro area counties are invited. Watch for details in the calendar.

Denver Libertarians also discussed the details of the Half-a-Slate in '98 campaign with Warren Kruse, our Denver County candidate recruiter. Warren was quite energized by Success '97, the recently completed leadership workshop. He's ready to hit the ground running by finding candidates and other volunteers for seven or eight of the ten state house seats in Denver.

Kudos

- Kudos to Bill Fargo....we miss you and all the work you did at the office! Hope you have a nice "snowbird" winter!
- Kudos to Stuart Barr, Ron Parrish, Jim Misa, Dave Bryant, David Aitken, BetteRose Smith, and Doug Anderson for assembling the last issue of the *Liberty* for mailing.

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War on Narcotics Imperils Justice System

by John L. Kane Jr.

Nearly everyone is disenchanted with the U.S. criminal justice system, which is seen as excessively expensive, conceptually confused, increasingly unfair and pervasively ineffectual.

Social scientists espouse views wedded to determinism, insisting that now this and now that social dynamic, biological condition or psychological force causes criminal behavior and that self-control has little, if anything, to do with one's conduct.

Politicians leap from capacious harangues to capricious remedies without reflection or inspiration. Frustrated citizens cling to the fundamental ideals that individuals are responsible for their acts and must be held accountable.

Lawyers and jurists quibble about balancing these interests, taking great care to avoid any moral judgment so that all viewpoints — even the contradictory — may enjoy the illusion of relevance and predominance.

The process twists and distorts language to the extent that a "life sentence" means temporary confinement, and "life without parole" means daily work release and unescorted furloughs. Flawed studies and statistics are used to promote whatever policy is in vogue.

In sum, truth takes a holiday, and special interests burrow into the sources of wealth and influence.

The result is waste and nonsense that in any other human endeavor would be intolerable. If there is a key to understanding America's criminal justice problem, it lies in recognizing that the war on drugs has been lost and never was winnable. In order to feed the war machine, we have sacrificed our courts, prisons and law enforcement. More importantly, we have surrendered many of the freedoms that made us the freest society in history.

Those who advocate escalating the war attribute the gangs, killings, corruption, thefts and burglaries to the drugs and the profits they bring. Those who seek de-escalation say the problem is not the use of drugs, but

the criminalization of them. Not all drugs are illegal. Alcohol destroys more people and inflicts more damage on society than do heroin, cocaine, marijuana and other narcotics combined.

The drug problem has two elements. The first is the human appetite for drugs and the costs of feeding it. If there were a free market, the social costs could be determined. The second aspect is the effect of government interdiction of drug commerce.

When these two elements are combined, it is not possible to reconcile them.

As a nation, by combining appetite and regulation in the era of Prohibition, we increased gangs, violence, corruption and widespread tolerance of illegality. We did nothing to decrease the thirst for alcohol. Only with the repeal of Prohibition did organized crime turn to illicit drugs as the principal source of tax-free profit.

The law cannot alter human appetites any more than it can eradicate the seven deadly sins. But if government took full control of the drug supply, dealers would lose all incentive to be in the business. The manufacture and distribution of drugs still would be serious crimes, but use and addiction would be treated as medical problems.

Efforts to dissuade the young from drug use, such as DARE and "Just say no" campaigns, are commendable. Public education has proven effective in reducing the number of people who smoke tobacco. Similar efforts may reduce consumption of drugs, but outright proscription of tobacco would contribute to an increase in crime just as Prohibition did with alcohol. We can expect neither the abolition of drug use nor reduced crime by our reliance on this intensive criminalization.

No doubt, some criminals must be incarcerated. Indeed, some are so dangerous they must be isolated, and some even need protection from themselves.

But those who espouse a "lock them up and throw away the key" solution must be willing to justify the enormous cost. It costs \$24,783 to incarcerate one federal prisoner a year, compared with only \$2,344 to supervise an offender under federal probation, the finest probation service in existence.

Thus imprisonment costs 10.6 times as much as supervision. This doesn't even consider indirect costs, such as welfare to families when the wage earner is imprisoned; loss of taxes; lost income to the community; loss to creditors; or the costs of readjustment when prisoners are released.

Between 1850 and the late 1970s, the U.S. incarceration rate remained relatively stable at about 100 per 100,000 people, writes Loren Buddress, chief probation officer of the Northern District of California, in the journal *Federal Probation*.

Because of the "tough on crime" cachet, since the late 1970s the rate has skyrocketed to 600 per 100,000. No other country, including Russia and South Africa, incarcerates more of its citizens than does the United States.

The federal prison system is now at 125 percent of capacity. California is at 184 percent, and no state is without similar problems. In the past decade the prison population has grown by 13 percent a year, and yet this tremendous increase has had no impact on crime. If we insist on using imprisonment as the principal means of fighting crime, we should be getting a much better bang for our buck.

If the population grew at only 10 percent a year, this nation would have to build four 500-bed prisons a week at about \$50,000 per bed. This amounts to \$10 million a week, or about \$5.2 billion a year.

But construction makes up only 5 percent of prison costs, Buddress notes.

The real cost would be \$14 billion a year — plus inflation for operating existing prisons.

"When one combines the economic deficits created by incarceration with the economic surplus created by local community supervision, the taxpayer benefits approximately \$37,000 per person per year for offenders who are punished locally on probation and on pretrial supervision rather than incarcerated," Buddress concludes.

Political leaders and candidates will insist on being "tough on crime," but there is no reason such toughness should be harnessed to an irresponsible lack of concern for costs and effectiveness.

The entire system is stretched to

the breaking point by laws that mandate minimum sentences. Most such sentences relate to the use, transportation, manufacture or sale of some drugs. In imposing these sentences, little if any attempt is made to distinguish between use and dealing. Many crimes such as theft, burglary and fraud are connected to drugs because they are committed to obtain the money to buy drugs.

If the resources now spent on criminalization of drugs were devoted instead to education and treatment, the cost and dangers of drug use would be greatly reduced. More funds would be available for schools, hospitals, libraries and courts. And the money spent on police practices that fail to reduce consumption could be directed to traditional areas of law enforcement that have been pre-empted by this futile war effort.

Today's drug enforcement system is swamping the judicial system. In many courts, the right to trial by jury in civil cases has all but disappeared. In far too many federal courts, the right to a trial presided over by a constitutional officer has vanished. People who can't wait 10 or more years to have a civil dispute decided are forced to "rent" a retired judge or pay a lawyer to arbitrate. Even in systems that have not reached gridlock, drug-congested dockets have diverted judicial time and attention from the thoughtful resolution of disputes to the ritualized processing of charge, plea and computerized sentences to crowded prisons.

In his annual report for 1989, almost a decade ago, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote: "Some courts, especially in border states, are approaching the outer limits of caseload and fatigue from handling drug-related criminal cases." He complained that the glut delays important litigation involving business disputes, the environment, civil rights and bankruptcy. Perhaps more poignantly, the chief justice did not comment on a result that every judge knows or should know, namely that the war on drugs has eviscerated the protections the Constitution guarantees against government invasion and seizure of our homes and property.

There are rational alternatives. Drug problems have been worsened by escalations in the drug war. The

solution lies not in isolating users, but in enlisting all our resources, not just law enforcement, in being pragmatic rather than hysterical, in being flexible rather than rigid and in being protective of the values that have pointed us toward the ideal of a free and just society.

U.S. Senior District Judge John L. Kane Jr. has served on the bench in Denver for 20 years and is a frequent lecturer and teacher at various law schools.

22 Libertarians Elected in Campaign '97

WASHINGTON, DC — At least 22 Libertarian Party candidates were elected or re-elected in Campaign '97 — the largest number of wins in party history in a single election cycle.

Leading the charge was Pennsylvania, where 14 LP members were elected. Libertarians also won in Ohio, Connecticut, Washington, Idaho, Michigan, California, and Massachusetts.

"Our record number of candidates and victories for an odd-year election shows that the Libertarian Party is coming of age," said LP National Director Ron Crickenberger. "These elected Libertarians will save their constituents millions of dollars by fighting taxes and government waste."

Plus, he said, "We are developing a farm team of candidates and managers who will have the skills necessary to go on to win State Representative and Congressional races in the future."

Campaign '97 boosted the number of Libertarians serving in public office around the country — elected or appointed — to more than 230, an all-time high.

Here's a state-by-state list of LP victories:

Pennsylvania: Libertarians are celebrating a record number of candidates and a record number of victories for an off-year election — with more than a dozen LP members in the winner's circle.

"1997 was a high-water mark for the party," said State Chair Tim Moir. "[It was] not the breakthrough some had hoped for, [but] if we continue at this intensity, the breakthrough will

come."

Libertarian candidates picked up wins in several uncontested races for Inspector Of Elections, which they targeted as "stepping-stone" positions to higher offices — victories which Moir predicted would eventually come from "hard work, smart campaigning, and a little luck."

- In Allegheny County, Tim Lloyd was elected as Inspector Of Elections (Ward 14 Division 13).
- In Berks County, Mark Wicks won a seat on the Upper Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors. In the three-way race, Wicks won 198 votes to the Republican's 131 and the Democrat's 31.
- In Chester County, Catherine Collins was elected to the Coatesville Area School Board.
- In Montgomery County, six Libertarians were victorious: Larry Goulart (Inspector Of Elections, Abington 11-2); Stephanie Heckman (Inspector Of Elections, Abington 6-2); Dianna Reiser (Inspector Of Elections, Upper Moreland Ward 7-2); Sharon Shepps (Inspector Of Elections, Upper Providence Oaks District); Chris Zabala (Norristown Borough Inspector of Elections, 3-1 District); and Obie Mild (Norristown Borough Inspector of Elections District 2-2).
- In Philadelphia, four more Libertarians were winners: Tim Moir, (Inspector Of Elections, Ward 5, Division 14); Phil Janusz, Inspector Of Elections, Ward 12, Division 14; Jim Pratt (Inspector Of Elections, Ward 58, Division 40); and Dan Sarandrea (Inspector Of Elections, Ward 56, Division 31). Also in Philadelphia, a Libertarian candidate for District Attorney finished in third place — but less than six percentage points behind the Republican. Leon Williams won 14.18% in a three-way, partisan race, just behind the GOP candidate who had 19.82%. "We did have a good showing and earned some respect" with the race, said Moir — and the LP picked up "three times the amount [of votes] needed to guarantee majority party status to the Libertarian Party in the city of Philadelphia."

(continued on page 7, second column)

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Jeffco Libertarian Recruits at High School

by Grant Johnson, Jeffco LP

On October 30, I was fortunate enough to be allowed to return to Chatfield High School (South Jefferson County) to speak about libertarianism and the Libertarian Party. I was the first of three speakers from the major parties to address seniors in the Economics and Political Parties class. I spoke to seven different 50-minute classes.

I tried to give the students an understanding of what a Libertarian believes and why it makes sense. I brought them up-to-date on the level of the National Debt as of the night before (\$5,429,386,229,248.37), their share of it (\$20,230.81), and the debt's rate of growth (\$618 million per day). I distributed roughly 200 political quizzes and "New Political Party" pamphlets. Based on experience, I reserved a lot of time for questions and discussion. My experience is that these kids are more engaged with the issues than many adults! Here are a few of their statements, concerns and arguments.

A constant question was, "If you have to pay for an education, then what about those that can't afford it?" when I suggested that private education was superior. This was an issue in every class.

When I argued that Americans are basically compassionate and concerned for others, students said, "Rich people won't share any of their money! Rich people don't care about anybody else, only themselves!" This "rich people are selfish" argument came from every class: many students were reluctant to believe that any-

body, let alone rich folks, would help others voluntarily.

Another frequent comment after looking at our pamphlet was, "Oh, cool! They're for pot! They got my vote!" Other frequent questions: "Where do you stand on the drinking age?" and, "What about the

rights of the individual being aborted?" This one came in response to my argument that the right of self-ownership implies the right to choose abortion.

On the issue of free trade: "What would you do about all those jobs that go out of the country when companies go there to benefit from cheap labor?" In response to one young lady's argument that there would be a lot more drug addicts if we legalized drugs, a young fellow responded "Well, you're a good little Catholic girl. You wouldn't become a drug addict!" Her reply: "I'm not Catholic! I'm Christian!" For a moment I thought I was in Northern Ireland!

And then there was the gratifying, but slightly government-schooling tainted: "I agreed with everything you said!"

The students also discussed gay rights, same sex marriages, the environment, minimum wage and gun control. I found these students to be excited about the issues and asking all the right questions about Libertarian Party positions on the big issues. Most importantly, I also find them very open to our ideas.

Speaking to Chatfield High School students was thoroughly enjoyable. I recommend you find a nearby High School and do the same.

America Adopts Soviet Transport System

by Gregory Golyansky

For some time the debate has been raging in Colorado whether Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD) really needs another sixteen billion dollars in order to

expand its light rail system.

RTD tells us that the light rail will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, make transit much faster, and give us a highly centralized, totally inflexible and all around first class 19th century style solution to 20th century transportation problems. This, however, seems like a good time to look at the nature of our modern day transportation problems. If we actually took a close look, the solution just might suggest itself.

The nature of our problem lies in the fact that there exist in the world a number of highly productive and efficient private car manufacturers. These car manufacturers are able to produce a great many excellent cars and sell them at affordable prices to any American who wishes to buy one.

On the other side of this equation is the Government's highly politicized, inefficient and mostly centrally-planned system of road construction and maintenance. This system, unlike one that is market-driven, has an unusual ability to invest our tax dollars in exactly the areas where they are least needed. The result of this backwards investment strategy is that in the middle of the Arizona and Nevada deserts, there are miles and miles of highways which the tires of the automobiles rarely touch. At the same time, there is never enough road capacity in the areas where people actually live and drive their cars.

Such is the inevitable outcome of trying to satisfy unpredictable private needs and wants with the help of narrow-minded, inefficient, and inflexible Government institutions. This always leads to ever greater, bureaucratically-inspired demands to build new, and expand existing, grossly inefficient, polluting, and expensive systems of public transportation.

Our present predicament finds us with more and more Government involvement in order to resolve problems which the Government created in the first place. In fact, it would seem that America's roads are the logical equivalent of the Soviet Union's department stores. Centrally planned and controlled, Soviet stores were also constantly unable to satisfy the demands of their consumers. It was said that the stores in Crimea, an area with a warm, Florida-like climate

on the Black Sea coast, usually had plenty of fur coats. At the same time the stores in the city of Irkutsk, in the middle of Siberia, were often filled with sandals and other summer apparel. There is even a famous episode when the Soviet Union sent, in the form of economic aid, snow clearing equipment to one of its African client-states.

So, what solutions might we propose for our transportation problems? We could, of course, privatize our system of roads and let the free market correct the bureaucratic boondoggle. Unfortunately, the Government officials guard their turf with vigilance, so that will probably never happen in our lifetimes. But the Berlin Wall was never expected to topple either. We can hope.

Our only other alternative is to nationalize all of our car manufacturing companies. We will replace the highly efficient and productive private management of GM, Chrysler and Ford with incompetent and inefficient Government bureaucrats. The production of automobiles will decline by at least 90%, and those that will actually be produced will be of such poor quality that they will spend most of their time in auto shops undergoing various repairs. This just might be a perfect solution for our ever more centrally-planned society. We will have a centralized, inefficient system that can not build enough roads where they are most needed, and another centralized, inefficient system that builds very few cars which most people can not afford. The two systems will complement each other perfectly. We will no longer have to worry about traffic congestion, air pollution, or snow removal.

In conclusion, I just want to add that if there is anyone who would actually prefer such Government solutions, you probably would not mind paying sixteen billion dollars in exchange for an old iron bridge that the RTD and Governor Romer would like to sell you.

Good luck!

Greg Golyansky is an immigrant from the Former Soviet Union who owns a pawn shop (ABC Loan Company) in Aurora. You can call phone him at work: (303) 341-2829.

(Libertarians Win '97 continued from page 5)

- In York County, Chad Lucabaugh was elected Constable in Conewego Township.

Overall, Moir said the party was very pleased with the results — and is hoping that late vote totals will push the number of LP winners even higher.

"We had 53 candidates for election in 1997, a record for the Pennsylvania Libertarian Party in an off-year election," he said. "When the dust settles, we will probably have elected between 15 and 20. We have learned a lot and polished a lot of candidates."

Idaho: Ron Wittig made history by becoming the first Libertarian to win public office in that state.

Wittig was elected to the City Council in the small community of New Meadows, about 100 miles north of Boise. He placed second in a three-way race, with the top two vote-getters winning a seat.

The leading candidate won 130 votes, Wittig won 80 votes, and the losing candidate got 54 votes in the non-partisan race.

Wittig has been an LP member for over 20 years. He ran for State Representative on the LP ticket in 1996, and has been a vocal opponent of efforts by the City Council to expand planning and zoning laws in New Meadows.

"One of Ron's first goals will be to undo the damage done by the Planning & Zoning Board in New Meadows in recent years, if not abolish it outright. He expects to succeed because the 5-seat council will now have a pro-freedom majority," said Chris Struble, State Chair of the Idaho LP.

"This is an excellent example of what any dedicated person can achieve over time by being active in their community," he said. "We hope this will be the first of many more victories for Libertarians in Idaho."

Michigan: In one of the biggest races of the year, Fred Collins won a seat on the Berkley City Council — coming within a whisker of the leading vote-getter in the race.

Collins finished third in a six-way race, and earned one of the three open seats. He won 2,072 votes (20.22%), less than a percentage point behind the winner (who won

20.97%), and the second-place finisher (20.74%). Two incumbents went down to defeat in that election.

"Please forgive me for shouting it from the rooftops, but... we won!" said Campaign Manager Barbara Goushaw, who had run Jon Coon's campaigns in 1994 and 1996. "And [we] fulfilled my personal fantasy of attending a Libertarian victory party that actually is a victory."

Goushaw attributed the victory to Collins' aggressive campaign, which included door-to-door campaigning at every one of the city's 6,700 households, lawn signs, two city-wide literature drops, a special mailing to absentee voters, a full-page ad in the local newspaper, reminder postcards to registered non-voters, get-out-the-vote phone calls in the last two days, and poll workers at every precinct on election day.

"While this was a non-partisan race, our message was pure Libertarian," said Goushaw. "Taxes, regulation, and turning one particular city-sponsored activity over to volunteers and out of the hands of the government. I believe this proves that our message can and does resonate with voters."

Connecticut: John Joy won a two-year term on the Oxford Zoning Board of Appeals, running unopposed.

Now that he's in office, Joy said, "I plan to remind my fellow board members that the United States and Connecticut constitutions supersede Oxford's regulations. I have always been particularly disturbed when it comes to matters involving someone else's property. Last I looked, the Takings Clause was still part of the Bill of Rights."

Massachusetts: Ron "Rocky" Jepson was elected as a Town Meeting Member in Saugus with 247 votes. He becomes the fifth Libertarian to win public office in Massachusetts.

Washington state: John Gearhart was elected to one of six seats on the City Council in Palouse in a non-partisan, non-contested race.

The major issue he stressed in his campaign, he said, was opposition to the City Council's attempt to draft a "comprehensive" plan for the city that would tell residents "things like where we should plant our flowers."

"I told voters this is an Orwellian

(continued on page 13)

THE 1998 LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION



BUILDING FREEDOM

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360 UNION BLVD. LAKEWOOD, CO

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Gene Burns

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Richard Boddie

Former U.S. Senate candidate, Olympic decathlon athlete and professional motivational speaker

Larry Hoffenberg

Widely-published opinions author, technical writer and Colorado's own press release champion

Michael Cloud

Professional speaker, speech writer and author of *The Essence of Political Persuasion* tapes

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Saturday, April 25

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12:00 PM Awards Luncheon

6:00 PM Cocktail Party

7:00 PM Banquet and Dance

Sunday, April 26

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11:00 PM Elections

12:00 PM Closing

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FREEDOM:
A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Successful Success '97 Energizes Libertarians

By Steve Richardson, Chair, Wyoming Libertarian Party

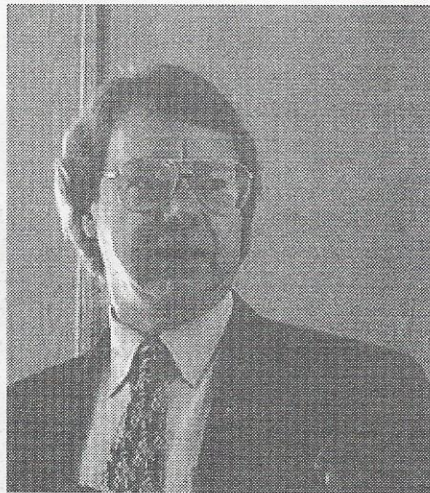
Along with 30+ people from CO, UT, IL, NH, TN and NM, I absorbed the presentations of a masterful group of LPUS presenters at Loew's Giorgio Hotel in Denver November 8 and 9. Presenters included Steve Dasbach (National Chair), Ron Crickenberger (National Director), Bill Winter (Communications Director), Barbara Goushaw (famous campaign manager from MI) and Michael Cloud (infamous speaking consultant from Las Vegas). After a few introductory comments from Steve and Ron, we introduced ourselves and then split into two groups: one for campaigners and another for party builders. I chose the latter, although it became clear later that both sides would hear from all five presenters and get some of the same information.

Introduction

Steve opened the proceedings by explaining six things we should be doing nationwide: 1) Find those already in agreement with us and sign them up; 2) Become large enough to be relevant in order to counter the "wasted vote" perception; 3) Forget pursuit of easy, instantaneous growth and practice Relentless Incrementalism; 4) Act professionally or no one will take us seriously; 5) Focus on outreach instead of internal affairs; and 6) Remember that we are *political*: that means we get political candidates elected.

Ron said studies have shown that we will get anywhere from 0.5-5% of the vote if we do nothing. If we can match the resources of the old parties, we'd jump to 15%-majority. Every state party must run as many candidates as possible, but should focus these efforts on ballot access and high profile races to maximize potential in elections.

Instead of "paper" candidates, we should use "party building" to describe those candidates who allow their names to be put on the ballot without actively campaigning. Minimum commitment for party building candidates is to answer *all* information



Ron Crickenberger, newly appointed National Director of the Libertarian Party, US, wearing his invisible Political Director hat.

surveys and media calls and to attend as many candidate forums as possible.

These efforts will help our credibility with the voters. Remember that 90% of candidates from any party lose their first race. Spending is the primary determinant of outcome, but incumbent vulnerability is a close second. Campaign for your principles, but with a strong organization.

Ron also mentioned the Sabrin campaign for Governor of New Jersey as an example of failure to fully exploit an opportunity to build the party. Murray got 5% of the vote, but NJ had fewer members at election time than a year ago. By contrast, Jon Coon's campaign in Michigan (managed by Barbara) got 4.5% of the vote and also generated 18,000 inquiries from nonmembers because Barbara focused on volunteer involvement.

State Party Organization

Bill explained his vowel-based 5 rules of success: Activity, Excellence, Infrastructure, Outreach and Ufolks. He was hired to work in Libertarian Party headquarters in Washington, DC after exhuming the New Hampshire LP. When he joined in 1988, they had 25-30 members statewide, 6 of whom were active and 1 who held public office. By 1992, they had 450 paid members, 3000 registered and 23 in office. This was at least twice as many

members by percentage as any other state. Even after he left in '93, membership doubled by '96.

Activity: Nothing much happens without money, which requires fundraising. Many libertarians find it easier and more fun to spend the same amount of time complaining about the problems they have which could be solved if they had funds. Newsletters are *vital* to build a sense of community with those who don't make it to meetings.

Excellence: Remember that success drives publicity, not vice-versa. Define yourself by what you have accomplished, not by what you say. Example: It is news if your party membership increases by 50%. Nonprofessional behavior will attract those personality types and reinforce a poor public image. Recognize that the party exists for political activity. If you are unwilling to do this, find another organization to support (Cato, Advocates, FFF).

Infrastructure: Take care of business first or nothing happens. Keep an accurate, updated data base of membership. It's boring, but we must accept that political activity is a group endeavor.

Outreach: Relentless is the key—do it always, not just in your "spare" time. Ask yourself how many of your problems stem from not having enough members? Leave behind Random Acts of Libertarianism and work instead on those things which will make us bigger and stronger.

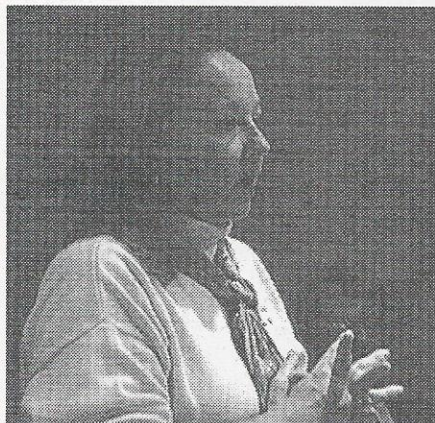
UfolksDolt: We are not big enough to hope that someone else will get the job done. Take personal responsibility for your Party's growth.

Steve Dasbach suggested keeping tasks well-defined and "bite-sized" to avoid scaring members from getting involved. Mail something to every



"Steve," U.S. Senate candidate from New Hampshire, shows how he deals with USA Today headlines touting a "kinder, gentler" IRS.

member at least bimonthly. Studies have shown that contributions are proportionate to the level of activity of the organization making the appeal, so you have to stay busy and make sure you tell everyone so they'll fund your ongoing efforts. Eventually, you should be able to count on about \$2.00/member/month as a base.



Barbara Goushaw talked about her party-building success during Jon Coon's campaign for State Assembly last year in Michigan. She asked us to define our target voters and how we are going to reach them. In Coon's case, they identified a large number of gun owners (60%+) and called it a "freedom thing," allowing a bridge to the drug issue and thereby distinguishing their approach from older parties.

Candidates are our #1 messengers for recruiting. Always provide a mechanism for the audience at a gathering to join your mailing list (clipboard sign-up for small groups, index cards for larger ones). After the election, Jon Coon signed a letter asking everyone on that list to join the party. Make envelope stuffing a social event and use it to get new people in the habit of being involved and getting to know fellow libertarians.

Mastering the Media

Bill Winter said that Libertarians in politics are like computer geeks attempting to compete in the Miss America pageant. We have to try much harder to get noticed, never mind liked.

We should maintain an accurate, updated list of media people. Releases sent to departments end up in the trash. Call each of these media folks twice a year to verify information, because there's a lot of mobility in the

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business. Mix your releases up, using news, issues, factual data and strategic pieces.

Media folks look for two things in any release: are you a player and is it interesting? This is why Winter uses puns so much—we're not players yet, so we have to be interesting.

Using objective facts and figures such as numbers of candidates, registrations, etc., will prove credibility. Always use an interesting headline on the release so they'll read it. Summarize the story in the first paragraph. Use your best stuff first. Use quotes for all opinions. Like it or not, since the journalist decides what to follow up on, we must entertain him/her with each release. Make sure you provide a daytime phone number.

Feel free to rewrite any national release with a local spin and to forward it to your local media. National has a disk with 211,000 contacts, but uses less than 2000 of them — so the odds are overwhelming that your favorite has not seen that great press release.

To subscribe to the email list for National's press releases, you can email <announce-request@lp.org> with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Local Organizations

Steve Dasbach told us that it is very important to match individual aptitude and interests to the tasks we delegate. Also, provide step-by-step instructions to make their job so easy they can't fail.

Perry Willis' huge success in San Diego was attributed largely to his monthly "party" meetings, at which tasks decided upon by the board were posted on a bulletin board in marked envelopes. Volunteers could thus easily take responsibility for things

they could do.

Perry also had envelopes for contributions to specific projects to be financed by those with more money than time. He simply made periodic announcements of what was needed and who had already taken which jobs, thereby recognizing their help. Perry is currently working on an organizing manual with a targeted completion date of January '98.

Newsletters

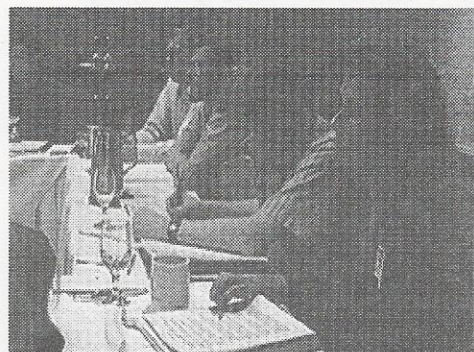
Bill Winter explained that a newsletter's purpose is both to make us bigger and stronger and *help us retain members*. A newsletter must convey the image of a successful, effective group.

Regular publication is the first rule for a newsletter because if we can't get a rag out on time no one will trust us to run anything. Pay close attention to the tone as well as the content as you ask yourself if this representation of the party makes you proud to belong.

Include actual news of real members doing positive things in each issue. Do not permit party-destroying conflicts in the newsletter as they defeat its purpose. Don't waste valuable space on things covered by other publications. Focus on your local party because that's what members expect and no one else will do it for you. Make it easy to read in both layout and style. Imitate design ideas from other publications. Every part of a newsletter sends a message — so if it doesn't contribute to your goal, don't publish it!

Public Speaking

Michael Cloud noted that the first four minutes of any conversation is the audition for the rest of it. Consider those four minutes the appetizer,



Fully focused attendees listen to a presentation on successful campaigning during Success '97.

because if you don't get their attention by then, you've already lost. For this reason, use your best stuff first. Avoid the Seven Deadly Sins of Public Speaking by following this formula:

- 1) Practice properly - three times in front of a mirror with a tape recorder.
- 2) Give your message a title by pretending it is a bumper sticker: make it brief and catchy.
- 3) Target your audience: think about who you are talking to and what will motivate them.
- 4) Use passion — it can carry a weak message, but its absence can kill a great one.
- 5) Pay particular attention to your beginning: remember the first four minutes.
- 6) Finish with a bang. Memorable quotes or phrases work well.
- 7) Write your script. Deliver from notes but develop it completely by taking some time. Use a rock song format by having a core message repeated like the chorus at least 3 times.

Direct Mail

Michael pointed out that selling the membership should focus on the small cost of liberty — just 7 cents a day for a \$25 annual membership. Then we look to those same people for more money without making them feel guilty if they choose not to give. Remember that many people are grateful for the opportunity to contribute, especially if they are not activists.

Response is low (1-2%) in direct mail because 80% of it doesn't get opened. Hence the "teasers" on the envelope. Inside, at the top of the first page you should list 4-5 "headlines" to be discussed later (to get them to read further). Somewhere in the letter it must answer the question "What's In It For Me?" — for every single recipient! Benefits can be avoiding catastrophe, too, but they must be perceived as personal or you won't get any money out of it.

Keeping in mind that you are primarily targeting non-activists, promise them action that their contributions will help make happen. Ask for a specific amount and point out that volunteer labor leverages their free-market investment.

Long letters make many feel that there must be lots going on and gives the impression they are getting more for their dollar.

Always use a P.S. because those who don't read the entire letter often read the title, first paragraph and the end. And don't forget the follow-up — in your next letter, tell them what you've done since the last appeal. They would like to hear that you made a difference and that you did as promised, but in any event you must tell them the truth.

Campus Libertarians

Steve Dasbach pointed out the opportunities and challenges peculiar to college politics. First of all, faculty contacts are essential. Lack of continuity can kill a good organization in little or no time, and it is especially difficult when students come and go within the school year.

Leaders in academic environments must constantly work to identify and develop their replacements to keep up with the turnover. On the positive side, though, we encounter open, fresh minds with no political history to prejudice them.

Discovery (as opposed to persuasion) still applies here, but university students respond more to philosophical than campaign-style approaches.

Summary

Attendees to Success '97 enjoyed a weekend that challenged them to specific, relentlessly incremental actions that all party members can perform to make the Libertarian Party the best, most active and most influential party in the coming elections and throughout the next millennium.

Steve Richardson suggests you might check out the Wyoming Libertarian Party's website at <http://www.GeoCities.com/CapitolHill/1799>

By leading abroad as he has done so effectively at home, President Clinton will establish himself as the world's pre-eminent statesman.

—Richard M. Nixon in 1993, endorsing Bill Clinton the foreign-policy president in a *New York Times* op-ed piece

Post-mortem on Guide the Ride

by David Aitken

After Guide the Ride went down in flames, the Independence Institute held a press conference to explain their view of an alternative transportation plan. Nobody but Independence Institute folks and the press attended the conference.

Jon Caldara presented a 3-part plan that involved RTD, the Legislature, and CDOT. **RTD would:**

- 1) contract out more services
- 2) use smaller, faster vehicles
- 3) reduce all department budgets by 5 percent and put the savings into service
- 4) reconsider southwest corridor light rail with possible shift to southeast corridor
- 5) smart card fare collections with compatibility with private sector.

The State Legislature would:

- 1) mandate more contracting out — 20% to 50% or more
- 2) decriminalize carpooling for profit
- 3) allow jitneys
- 4) create incentives for telecommuting and flextime, etc.

CDOT would:

- 1) push intelligent transportation/roads
- 2) move toward shared transit.

Steve Mueller also presented a 5-part plan:

- 1) RTD should run smaller and more frequent buses.
- 2) Contract out RTD's operations (he calls it privatizing).
- 3) Change RTD's mission statement to focus on two principles - enhanced bus service and reduction of traffic congestion. This would include shutting down light rail, removing references to "fixed guideway transit" from existing legislation, reducing the RTD sales tax and dedicating .2% of sales tax to traffic congestion relief.
- 4) Deregulate the taxicab industry.
- 5) Eliminate legislative link between air pollution and transportation.

My analysis is that both of these plans go in the right direction, but they don't go far enough. Neither plan

seriously focuses on getting the government out of transportation or ending the subsidies for automobiles which is the only thing that will truly get people out of their cars. It's possible that Jon and Steve identified only what's politically possible, but I think we Libertarians should push the envelope at every opportunity. By doing so, we might get half a loaf.

Below are some ideas for a bill that would allow the changes Jon and Steve's plans propose, and go quite a bit beyond as well.

We Libertarians can avoid the trap that Transit 97 walked into — central planning. No matter how smart Jon and Steve are, they don't have all the answers. The free market does.

David Aitken Bill Title: Revenue Neutral Surface Transportation Deregulation

Summary

This bill:

1. Ends the Regional Transportation District's monopoly in providing transportation services and removes any preferential provisions over private sector competitors.
2. Increases the state fuel tax by an amount equal to the highest yearly amount received in any of the last five years from the RTD sales tax and general fund and capital fund funding for surface transportation projects, less any remaining RTD sales taxes.
3. Phases out the RTD sales tax over 3 years.
4. Reduces the state sales tax by the amount of general fund and capital fund monies spent on surface transportation and recaptured by the fuel tax.
5. Prohibits general fund and capital fund funding of surface transportation construction and maintenance.
6. Puts RTD back on the tax rolls as a private enterprise with a board elected by shareholders by issuing 100 shares of stock to each RTD district citizen over the age of 18 and by causing those shares to be traded in a public market.
7. Defines allocation of fuel tax funds to municipalities, counties, and the state. Based on weighted lane miles: Primary(3), secondary(2),

residential(1). Districts would receive funds equal to the percentage of weighted lane miles they are responsible for maintaining to the total weighted lane miles. Sets service standards on different types (p,s,r) of lanes. Provides for audits every 5 years.

8. Prohibits cross-subsidization of surface transportation projects.
9. Requires districts to establish competitive markets in any mechanism used to allocate common property such as routes, curbs, or rights of way.
10. Prohibits exclusive contracts for services; prohibits contracts exceeding 4 years; prohibits exclusive contracts for geographic areas.
11. Applies to the state of Colorado and all its districts including home-rule districts.

12. Prohibits state of Colorado and all its districts including home-rule districts from accepting federal funds for transportation projects.

13. Prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from determining whether or not a business may offer products or services.

David Aitken is the Chair of the Denver Libertarians and can be contacted at daitken@tde.com

I have no ambition to govern men; it is a painful and thankless office.

—Thomas Jefferson

(Libertarians Win '97 continued from page 7)

plan, and I want to kill it," he said.

Gearhart said he's now eyeing a possible run for State Representative in 1998, and urged other Libertarian candidates: "Look for an opening and go for it. If you want to have someone on the ballot that you can vote for, it just might be you."

Ohio: Libertarians chalked up two wins in Election '97 — both in re-election campaigns.

Bob DeBrosse was returned to the Piqua City Council for a second term by a narrow margin.

"DeBrosse plans to run for the Ohio State House in 1999, and he's an excellent candidate whom we're watching closely," said Dena Bruedigam, the editor of the Ohio state newsletter.

Also winning re-election was Richard Shelter, as a Bethlehem Township Trustee.

"He has already served eight years, and is the closest thing we have to a career politician," quipped Bruedigam. "He was also instrumental in getting a proposed township zoning [law] defeated at the same time he was running his campaign."

California: In Salinas, Mark Dierolf "coasted to an easy victory for his second term" as a Trustee for Hartnell Community College, according to State Chair Mark Hinkle.

Dierolf won 48.2% of the vote in the non-partisan race, beating four challengers for the position.

"I asked him how he did it, especially since he beat a Hispanic candidate in a Hispanic district," recounted Hinkle. "His answer: He spent about \$4,000 and walked door-to-door, twice. So I told him he won the old-fashioned way: He earned it."

—Libertarian Party Press Release

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Microsoft Addresses Justice Department Accusations

REDMOND, Wash. - Oct. 21, 1997 — In direct response to accusations made by the Department of Justice, the Microsoft® Corporation announced today that it will be acquiring the federal government of the United States of America for an undisclosed sum. "It's actually a logical extension of our planned growth," said Microsoft chairman William Gates. "It really is going to be a positive arrangement for everyone."

Microsoft representatives held a briefing in the oval office of the White House with U.S. President Bill Clinton and assured members of the press that changes will be "minimal." The United States™ will be managed as a wholly owned division of Microsoft. An initial public offering is planned for July of next year, and the federal government is expected to be profitable by "Q4 1999 at latest," according to Microsoft president Steve Ballmer.

In a related announcement, William Jefferson Clinton stated that he had "willingly and enthusiastically" accepted a position as a vice president with Microsoft, and will continue to manage the United States government, reporting directly to Mr. Gates. When asked how it felt to give up the mantle of executive authority to Gates, Clinton smiled and referred to it as "a relief." He went on to say

that Gates has a "proven track record," and that U.S. citizens should offer Gates their "full support and confidence." In his new role at Microsoft, Clinton will reportedly earn several times his current \$200,000 annual U.S. President's salary.

Gates dismissed a suggestion that the U.S. Capitol be moved to Redmond as "silly," though he did say that he would make executive decisions for the U.S. government from his existing office at Microsoft headquarters. Gates went on to say that the House and Senate would "of course" be abolished. "Microsoft isn't a democracy," he observed, "and look how well we're doing."

When asked if the rumored attendant acquisition of Canada was proceeding, Gates said, "We don't deny that discussions are taking place."

Microsoft representatives closed the briefing by stating that United States citizens will be able to expect lower taxes, increases in government services and market-making discounts on all Microsoft products.

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft Corporation (NASDAQ: MSFT) is the worldwide leader in both software for personal computers and Democratic™ government. The company offers a wide range of products and services for public, business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of both personal computing and Democratic society.

About the United States

Founded in 1789, the United States™ of America (GATT: USA) is the most successful nation in the history of the world, and has been a beacon of democracy and opportunity for over 200 years. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the United States recently became a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft® Corporation.

Microsoft® is a registered trademark and Democratic™ is a trademark of the Microsoft Corporation. Democratic refers to software and hardware that obsoletes the Constitution and allows government officials to do anything they darn well please, including burning citizens in their own churches. United States™ is a registered trademark of the Government of the United States of America, now a subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation. This press release is a Fully Informed Joke promulgated by "Anonymous," who is also the co-author (with R. Emmett Tyrell, Jr.) of the recently published "docu-drama," The Impeachment of William Jefferson Clinton.

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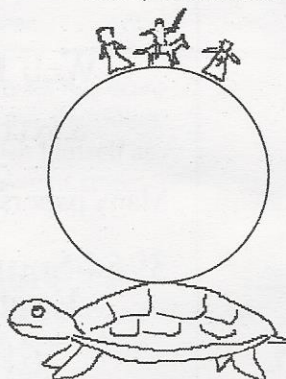
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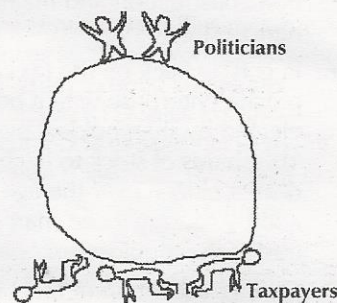
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In the **Dark Ages**, people believed that a giant turtle held up the earth.....



Today, we know better



—Gus Calabrese

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U.S. Congressional District 3

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U.S. Congressional District 5

Vacant and available; to volunteer, contact Doug Anderson at (303) 698-2651

U.S. Congressional District 6

Bob Hogan (303) 978-9803

38 Blue Sage, Littleton CO 80123

If your area (or campus) doesn't have a local contact and you'd consider being one, please contact Outreach Director Dan Cochran. A local area can be anything that makes sense. It does not have to be a county.

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